

The following occurs in the officially published proceedings of the convention, in session in this place, on Monday last:

Mr. Watson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Constitution which may be adopted by this Convention shall be submitted to the people for ratification or rejection.

Mr. Watson. This is a question of principle. It is simply whether we will submit the Constitution or not. When I came here, a member of this convention, I determined that whatever I did for the loyal people should be submitted to them for their approval. I would submit the Constitution. It is a principle with me. Is it possible that this small body, "contemptible in the eyes of the world for the paucity of its numbers," should refuse to submit its doings to the people?

Mr. Penn. I know that my action in this matter will not place me in an enviable position before my fellow citizens, yet I will do what I conceive to be my duty, without fear or favor. I acknowledge that the principle of submitting the Constitution to the people is right and just, and I should not think of voting against its submission, if it were in time of peace. — But we are in peculiar circumstances. Men outside of the Convention who have, or think they have considerable influence, are endeavoring to defeat the Constitution, because some things in it do not agree with their opinions. — If we submit it and have it rejected, what will the Government and other States think? They will take us under a territorial government. — There has got to be too much personal feeling in regard to this matter. Some object to emancipation—some to the school ordinance. — In my own community many loyal men would have nothing, if they cannot have what they want. Some think we have been too mild; others, not mild enough—some want one thing some another. I feel bound under the present circumstances, to vote against the resolution. Extreme cases require extreme measures. I agree with the principles involved, but do not regard the present time as opportune for putting it in force.

Mr. Wing. I object to the resolution because it is not politic. If the Constitution should be rejected it would give those who favor territorial government the strongest argument we could put in their hands.

Mr. Hawxhurst. Is the gentleman afraid of loyal or disloyal votes?

Mr. Wing. Many loyal men prefer a military despotism to civil government. They are willing to get clear of their taxes, and make what money they can. I prefer a civil government.

Mr. Hawxhurst. The Constitution is not such as I desire it; it is a milk-and-water concern, and if it goes before the people, I fear it will be spewed out. It will suit neither loyal nor disloyal; but, poor as it is, it is better than a military government, and I shall favor it, and favor submitting it to the people.

Mr. Penn. In the view of the gentleman from Fairfax, the Constitution is a milk-and-water concern, because we have not incorporated certain things which he wanted; and the gentleman from Loudoun wishes to change his vote. I hope the gentlemen will speak out, and let us have their sentiments on this question.

Mr. Downey. The gentleman from Alexandria has argued both sides of this question, a thing which he has done more than once in this convention. He was at first more severe in his denunciations of rebels than any other man in the house; he would not stop for ropes to hang them, but would take the first grape-vine that came in his way. I would receive back the men that were compelled to go for secession, but not those who went for it voluntarily.

The question was then taken on the resolution, with the following result:

Ayes—Beach, Downey, Dix, Gover, Hawxhurst, Moore, Watson.

Nays—Boush, Edwards, Henshaw, Penn, Stone, Thomas, Tennis, Webb, Wing, Wood. So the resolution was rejected.

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breast and sides, deafness, nervousness,  
spotted fever, chills and fever, ague, open  
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liousness, eruptions of the skin, bowell  
complaint, langoor, gout, dropsy,  
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entery, costive-  
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mar 5—tf

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feb 17—tf

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oct 21—tf

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